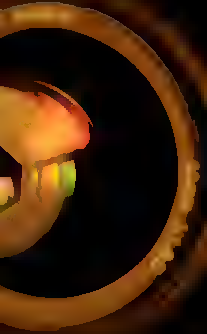

Tada, Kimi wo Aishiteru

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9月30日生まれの"えびん
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ただ、君を愛してる

Tada, Kimi wo Aishiteru

ただ、
Tada, Kimi wo Aishiteru
君を愛してる
My rendezvous with Shizuru... can be traced back to the spring of my 18th year.
原作 市川拓司
Written by: Takuji Ichikawa
作画 吉野阿貴
Written by: Aki Yoshino

About six years ago:
New Student Entrance Ceremony
IF I DON'T HURRY, I'M GOING TO MISS THE CEREMONY..
VROOM!
WHAT THE..
HONK—!
HONK—!
HONK—!
Fwip
HONK—!
Urk!

I DIDN'T KNOW PEOPLE STILL WAVE THEIR HANDS WHEN CROSSING THE STREET
HONK!
DO YOU WANT TO GET KILLED?
HONK!
...
THERE'S A CROSSWALK DOWN THE ROAD
IT WOULD BE EASIER TO CROSS THERE.

Ba-thump
Those big eyes surprised me for a moment.
...
Can't I cross here?
No point in telling me that.
Sigh
Well, this stupid crosswalk is making me late for my first day.
Phooey
Huh?
No way... She's 16?
Thought she was in grade school.
How should I say this... Since a lot of students cross up there, the cars have to wait for a long time, so they never stop here...
But isn't this a crosswalk here?

How about you? Don't you go to this university?
Uh... I wasn't going to attend the entrance ceremony.
Why not?
Um, I don't really like big crowds...
Uh-hum.
Sniff, sniff...
Ack!
Anyways... if you want to cross the road, you better hurry.
Bye.
Sniff...
See ya!

ding— dong—
ding— dong—
VROOM!
VROOM!
SHE'S STILL WAITING THERE.
DOES SHE WANT TO CROSS THE ROAD THERE THAT MUCH?
Hmm
WHAT AN UNUSUAL GIRL.
Heh
WELL.

It was the first picture I took of Shizuru.
SNap
At that time, a certain someone made my heart skip.

She was Toyama Miyuki.
Miyuki, what are your thoughts on Shakespeare's works?
Me?
My favorite is still "Romeo and Juliet."
Nobody could dislike her.
Everlasting love is so touching, you know?

ding dong
MEN
dash
A TOTAL ROMANTIC.
!?
LIFT
OH...
IT'S SO ITCHY...
I've had irritable skin since I was a child.
Sigh
My dad was the same. Maybe it's hereditary.
Hahaha!
CREAK
Uh!

AHH... AFTERNOON CLASSES MAKE ME SO SLEEPY.
sniff
UM...
DO YOU SMELL THAT?
Ack!
DID YOU TAKE A DUMP?
Oh, that.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
DO YOU SMELL MEDICINE?
DIDN'T THEY JUST CLEAN THIS WASHROOM?
ding dong
AHH! DARN...
Let's go!
SLAM
Phew.
I've always been self-conscious about the smell of my ointment.

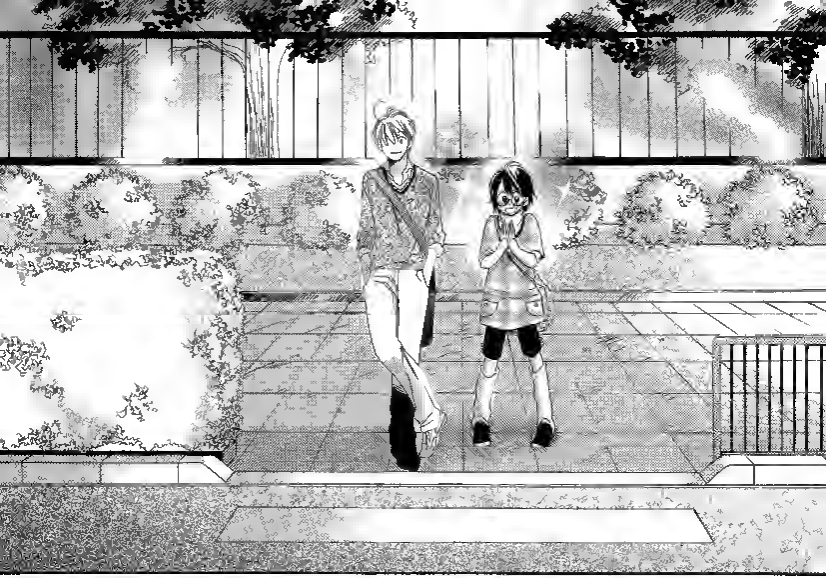
HUH?
OH!
ANYBODY SITTING HERE?
SLIDE
DESERTED
NO
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER EMPTY SEATS...
Heh.
YOU...
TOOK MY PICTURE AT THE CROSSWALK, DIDN'T YOU?

Oh..
Teehee!
It must be fate
Sorry. Did you mind?
No, it's nothing like that
Ah
Um...
She noticed
I'm Segawa Makoto, English major.
Same here
smile
Let me introduce myself properly
GRIN
I'm Satonaka Shizuru, French major. Nice to meet you
Um.
Ah
'Scuse me
Sniff
My sense of smell is only one percent of a regular person's
Sorry, it's my allergies
Her nose isn't very sensitive That's good news for me.
Ah. Um~ Really?

RUMMAGE
Have you made any friends here yet?
No, not really.
Me either.
It's tough making new friends at this age.
munch
munch
Just a snack?
Is that all you're having for lunch?
Yup. Want some?
No...
It's delicious. It's pretty much all I eat.
Just crackers?
Huh?
Wheat Cracke
Yup
They're wheat. And they smell really nice
And they've got a hole in the middle.
Whatever
I can see you!
So, how about we be friends?

AH-CHOO!
..
Mm
I KNEW IT. A MAN AND A WOMAN CAN'T BE "JUST FRIENDS."
sniff
UM...
NO?
Aw!
HUH!?
I... I DIDN'T!
LIAR!
Ah!
WHY DID YOU JUST SNEAK A PEEK AT ME?
Hm...
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM...
glance
YOU WERE WONDERING IF I'M REALLY A WOMAN... RIGHT?

Awkward!
So did you end up crossing the street at that crosswalk?
Er...
No
It seems there are no kind-hearted people here
Mm...
Huh?
Ah...
munch munch
But I will absolutely cross there before I graduate!
It's ridiculous that no one can use that crosswalk!
That's my mission!
If people aren't meant to use it, then they should just paint it on the floor of a museum.
Actually, it's really simple
Well said.
You can do it.
Heh.



WHAT A GREAT FEELING!
OF COURSE, THE SUN JUST CAME UP

AWESOME! AWESOME!
Wahoo! ♡
LOOK, I CAN CROSS AS MANY TIMES AS I LIKE!

WHAT A GORGEOUS SUNRISE.

...
MAKOTO.
SNAP
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HEAVEN?

This is a surprise.
Who would have imagined there's a place like this near the university.

It really is like heaven.
Right?
swing
Ah!
Creak creak
Here it comes! "Mercredi"!
What's that?
Oh?
When it sings it sounds like "Mercredi"
A bird huh?
That means Wednesday in French
Where is it?
A bird! A really pretty one!

ERM...
Will that work?
Let's do it!
OF COURSE! THESE ARE THE TASTIEST CRACKERS IN THE WORLD!
DO BIRDS EAT THOSE?
SEE IT?
IN THAT TREETOP
NO, WHERE IS IT?
BAIT...?
Do you have any?
It's not coming near
LET'S BAIT IT.
WHAT?
GIVE ME A BOOST.
What?!
MY FIRST TIME GETTING SO CLOSE TO A GIRL...
WELL? CAN YOU REACH?
NO SWEAT!
This is a bad idea.
A BOOST.
THIS IS...
AH... OH.

OOF!
THERE.
I'M COMING DOWN
JOLT
AM I HEAVY?
NOT AT ALL. ACTUALLY, I WAS A LITTLE SHOCKED AT HOW LIGHT YOU ARE.
PIORA
PIORA
YOU REALLY ONLY EAT THOSE CRACKERS?
Tschee
THEY HAVE ENOUGH NUTRITION
OH?
AH!
WITH ME... WHAT I'M MISSING IS
GROWTH HORMONES

SORRY,
I GOT CRACKER CRUMBS ON YOUR HEAD
Blink
Blink
!
Uhm!
AH
IT'S NOT

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A GIRLFRIEND BEFORE?
?!
SO...
WELL, HAVE YOU?
HUH?
STARE
HMPH!
MAKOTO,
THIS HERE IS HEAVEN, RIGHT?
OH, SURE.
WELL, ANY NORMAL PERSON WOULD.
You're blushing
Awkward
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A SIN TO LIE IN HEAVEN?

YOU CAN TELL WHEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE LYING, RIGHT?
SEE! I KNEW IT!
...!
Urk!
I could never win against Shizuru's keen insight.
FLAP
LOOK! IT CAME!
SNAP
It was already summer,
but I still had yet to say one word to Miyuki.

BA-THUMP!
SEGAWA-KUN.
...HUH?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?
SINCE WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME CLASS... THAT IS, UNLESS YOU MIND...

AM I DREAMING?
HELLO.
HEY
OH?
SO HE DOES TALK?
HUH?
HOW MANY MONTHS HAVE YOU BEEN AT THIS SCHOOL?
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU TALK TO ANYBODY
AH... WELL... I'M KIND OF SHY...
UHM...
LONG TIME TO BE SHY! IT'S BEEN SEVEN MONTHS, HASN'T IT?
ANYWAY, CHEERS TO OUR NEW FRIEND!
CHEERS!
TWITCH
...

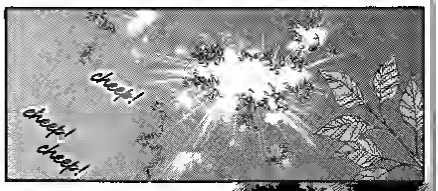
PLEASE TAKE CARE
THANKS
SEGAWA-KUN,
WE TAKE A LOT OF THE SAME CLASSES, DON'T WE?
I PURPOSELY CHOOSE THE SAME CLASSES MIYUKI IS TAKING
EVERY TIME, I THINK "OH, THERE HE IS AGAIN."
BECAUSE...

I'm sure Shizuru, with her keen insight, must also have known.
I...
had always had a crush on Miyuki.

I SAW YOU TALKING TO A GIRL EARLIER.
Haha, no way! He's got a girlfriend?
OH, BY THE WAY.
DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
Pout
HUH?
OH...!
NO, NO...
Hey?
SHE'S JUST A FRIEND.
She can hear you
THAT'S HER, RIGHT? FRIZZY HAIR, NOSE ALWAYS RUNNING, LOOKS LIKE SHE'S STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL?
ARE YOU A LOLICON?
WHAT?
YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH THAT KIND OF GIRL?
YOU DON'T KNOW HER? SHE'S THE TOP STUDENT IN THE FRENCH DEPARTMENT.
Psst!
WHO? WHO IS SHE?
ER... WHAT KIND OF GIRL...?

GLITTER
WE'RE JUST FRIENDS!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
BLUSH
Um
glare

I'm sorry!
SURE.
I didn't know she was right there!
HURRY AND CATCH UP TO HER
IT'S MY FAULT! PLEASE PASS ON MY APOLOGIES!
HOW CAN WE...


cheep!
cheep!
cheep!

Ah...

AH...
EXCUSE ME...
CLATTER

I AM NOT MAD.
Phew
REALLY?
OH, GOOD
GLARE
SORRY
I'M ALREADY USED TO PEOPLE THINKING I'M WEIRD. I DON'T EVEN MIND IT ANYMORE.
STUPID IDIOT
Idiot...?
HUH?
I'M SAD BECAUSE OF YOU, MAKOTO

It was like you had to explain things
When you kept on saying "just a friend," "just a friend."
We don't have to be lovers, but you should have at least spoken up for me.
As your friend
It was as if you were saying I mattered less than other people. .
I had hurt her.

I had hurt Shizuru.
ER...
UM...
RUSTLE
RUMMAGE
I WAS ON A CLASS PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP EARLIER. A STORE WAS SELLING THESE.
SPECIAL! WHEAT CRACKERS
YOU CAN HAVE IT IF YOU WANT
WHEAT CRACKERS
I DON'T CARE.

GIVING ME THIS... I DON'T THINK I CAN HOLD BACK MY TEARS ANY LONGER...
snatch

SOS~
munch
munch
sniff
sniff
munch
munch
munch
munch
SOS~
munch
munch
SOS~
munch
munch
SOS~
AH...
SOS~

I didn't know what she wanted.

But... I couldn't just do nothing while Shizuru cried.
Nor did I know what to do.
I held Shizuru close for a long time, just like that.
...I'M SORRY
HUH?

IT'S OKAY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
That's what it's for
sniff
YOUR HANDKERCHIEF IT'S ALL WET
Hm
YOU LIKE THAT PRETTY GIRL, DON'T YOU?
MAKOTO

NOT GOOD!
SHIZURU
THAT SORT OF THING SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET.
Flap
When she expressed an interest... in the things I love.
Snap
Snap
HAHA!
YUP!
OH YEAH, I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO ASK YOU.
SECRET?
POOF!
OH?
THIS?
YEAH!!
THIS!
What?
POW!
I was really happy at that time...
GRIP IT FIRMLY
HANDS STEADY

Hm
OH
PHOTO
UH-HUH! RENT HERE IS SO MUCH CHEAPER THAN THE PLACES NEARER TO THE TRAIN STATION
THAT'S YOUR PLACE?
WHAT'S THIS?
POP
AH!
DON'T TOUCH IT!
Ah
SORRY

...
Excuse me!
...HMM?
.?
DON'T SAY WEIRD THINGS
I DIDN'T.
WEIRD! YOU SURE HID THAT IN A PANIC.
IT MUST BE FOR SUSPICIOUS THINGS, HUH?
Whatever.
THIS IS THE DARKROOM.
SO COOL!
YOU DEVELOP YOUR OWN PHOTOS?
Like it?
SURE DO.
CAN I TRY?
LET ME TEACH YOU.

IT'S THE ONE I TOOK! "MERCREDI"!
WOW... THE PICTURE...!
Did you get it right this time?
Is this good?
Haha
Hm
...EVEN IF IT IS BLURRY.
IT'S MY FIRST PHOTO, SO IT'S WORTH KEEPING.
Uhm
The time I spent with Shizuru flew by.
I'M SORRY. IT'S ALREADY SO LATE...
12
3

DON'T WORRY. THERE ARE STILL TRAINS RUNNING, SO YOU CAN GET HOME
WAIT HERE. I'LL WALK YOU TO THE STATION
MAKOTO, YOU ONLY TAKE PHOTOS OF LAND-SCAPES?
WHY NO PEOPLE?
WHAT ARE YOU ASKING?
BECAUSE I DON'T TAKE GOOD PORTRAITS
I stick with what I'm good at
OH...

THEN I'M A LONER AMONG ALL THOSE SCENIC VIEWS
OH?
THE ONLY PORTRAIT YOU'VE TAKEN IS OF ME.
IS IT REALLY?
OH. ER... I SUPPOSE IT IS...
Now that you mention it
grin
I'M YOUR PERSONAL MODEL, MAKOTO!

AFTER TODAY, I'LL GROW AND GROW.
I WILL BECOME SO BEAUTIFUL THAT YOU'LL BE SHOCKED, MAKOTO.
BUT DON'T WORRY.
At the time, I didn't understand what Shizuru meant.
YOU SEE, I LACK GROWTH HORMONES.
HM.
I NEVER WENT THROUGH THE USUAL PHYSICAL CHANGES.
MY BREASTS NEVER DEVELOPED,
AND I STILL EVEN HAVE SOME OF MY BABY TEETH.
AFTER TODAY, I WILL REMOVE THESE GLASSES.
BUT NOT NOW. YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT LONGER.
IN THE FUTURE, I'LL DEFINITELY BECOME A WOMAN THAT YOU'LL WANT TO CAPTURE ON FILM.
YOU'LL HAVE PHOTOS OF ME ALL OVER YOUR PLACE

THE MOMENT I TAKE OFF THESE GLASSES, YOU'LL BE STUNNED, MAKOTO!
Just you wait!
MIYUKI, DID YOU USE PERFUME TODAY?
HUH?
UM, A LITTLE..
OH DEAR, DID I PUT ON TOO MUCH?
It's fine
NO, NOT AT ALL.
I'M SAFE!
I SEE MIYUKI READING THAT MAGAZINE PRETTY OFTEN.
IS IT INTERESTING?
Wedding

But I had been quite happy with Shizuru just the way she was at that moment.

For women...
YES, IT IS.
AFTER ALL, I'LL BE A BRIDE ONE DAY.
WELL, ONE DAY, I THINK YOU WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE
A wedding is of utmost importance. Maybe even more important than who their marriage partner will be.
Yeah...?
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT MARRIAGE, SEGAWA-KUN?
NO, NEVER
GRIN
UM... NO...
What did I just say?
THANK YOU.
Hee

HUH?
I DON'T MEAN FOR YOU. I MEAN FOR THE PERSON WHO WOULD BE YOUR PARTNER.
IT... WOULD?
BUT YOU WILL MARRY ONE DAY, RIGHT?
WELL...
I GUESS...
IT WOULD BE A PITY IF YOU DIDN'T.
SEGAWA-KUN, YOU HOLD A PERSON'S HAPPINESS IN YOUR HANDS.
SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE WORLD, THERE'S A GIRL WAITING FOR THAT HAPPINESS.
SO MAKE SURE YOU DELIVER HAPPINESS TO THAT GIRL!
Me...?

Holding happiness...?
HUH?
SNIFF
THIS IS ENGLISH LITERATURE CLASS, ISN'T IT?
SHIZURU?
What was she doing there?

WHAT... A STUDENT MAJORING IN FRENCH CAN'T TAKE AN ENGLISH CLASS?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT...
I HAPPEN TO LIKE HEMINGWAY A LOT
ISN'T "THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA" TOUCHING?
TOUCHING? A STORY OF THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN AN OLD MAN AND A FISH?
giggle
YES! A SWORD-FISH!
THEY'RE... THE FISH WITH LONG NOSES...
THAT'S NOT THEIR NOSE!
OH, IT ISN'T?
Swordfish

Teehee
Hi, Miyuki!
Hello!
Ah!
AH... MIYUKI, THIS IS...
I'M SATONAKA SHIZURU
TOYAMA MIYUKI
SHIZURU, YOU'RE VERY CHARMING.

ding— dong—
ding— dong—
SHIZURU!
GRIN
AH, EVERYBODY TELLS ME THAT.
A PLEASURE MEETING YOU.
WHAT?
WHAT JUST HAPPENED BACK THERE?
"WHAT'S WRONG?"
Uh
I♥NY
WHAT'S WRONG, MAKOTO?
SHE MUST BE VERY POPULAR.
GRIN
UM...
SHE'S WEARING AMETHYST.
Amethyst?
HUH?

I CAN'T HELP LIKING HER.
SHIZUKU...
WHAT?
Really!
Heh
Hey!
I♥NY
IT WOULD BE SUCH A LOSS IF SHE ENDED UP WITH YOU.
...
I LOVE SOMEONE...
I CAN TELL WHEN YOU'RE LYING.
AT LEAST...

I HOPE THE PERSON I LOVE CAN BE WITH THE PERSON HE LOVES
DOES THAT SATISFY YOU?

BUT—
DO YOU MIND?
YOU'RE MY FIRST
LOVE, MAKOTO.
I am...

But Shizuru maintained her smile.
I couldn't answer.
It was a sad predicament...
And so...
That complicated relationship
continued on until the autumn of our third year at the university.
UM...
STONE OF LOVE?

YES, THESE ARE ENERGY STONES
AMETHYST REPRESENTS LOVE
OH...
ONLY GIRLS EVER BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF..
WHAT'S WRONG, SEGAWA-KUN?
YOU'RE SPACING OUT
OH.. I WASN'T... IT'S JUST.
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED STUFF LIKE THAT, MIYUKI.
YOU DON'T?
BUT MY FEELINGS ARE WHAT'S IMPORTANT, RIGHT?
Can it be...

Was Miyuki also a victim of one-sided love?

Hey!
Just now I was telling Segawa-kun about energy stones, and he tuned out.
Makoto is impossible. He can't appreciate such sophisticated things.
Geez...
I can't get a word in edgewise.
Kyaa~!
Kyaa~!

Only being loved by others from afar?

SHIZURU...
Mustn't forget!
SHIZURU, SEGAWA-KUN, SEE YOU BOTH LATER!
WELL. I NEED TO GO TO CLASS.
YOU DO?
UM. YOU COULD SAY THAT.
YEAH?
I'M LEAVING HOME.
OH.
plop
ALL THAT LUGGAGE...
ARE YOU TRAVELING?
WAIT, WHAT?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE SINCE THIS MORNING.
Makes me so mad!
BUT NOBODY WILL RENT TO ME BECAUSE THEY THINK I'M A LITTLE KID!

I JUST NEED TO KEEP LOOKING.
LEAVING HOME... FOR REAL?
WHAT IF THAT DOESN'T WORK?
AND IF I CAN'T GET A HOTEL ROOM, THEN I'LL STAY IN THE UNIVERSITY DORMITORIES.
I AT LEAST HAVE TO FIND A PLACE TO SLEEP TONIGHT.
Then...
IF I CAN'T GET AN APARTMENT, THEN I'LL RENT A HOTEL ROOM.
IT'S FINE.
THERE HAS TO BE A WAY, AND I'LL FIND IT.
SHE'S SERIOUS!
sigh

WELL...
COME STAY AT MY PLACE!
I couldn't just leave her out in the cold.
CAN I?
CREAK
SEGAWA
For a girl...
It's better than sleeping out on the street.
PLOP
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I LAST CAME HERE...

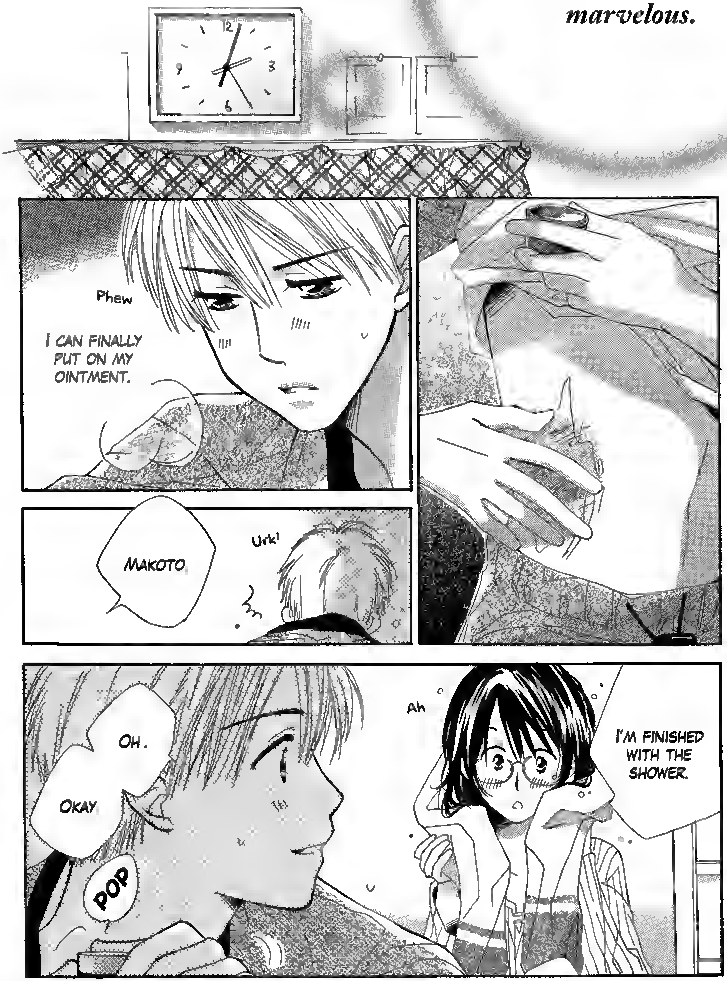
WELL, YOU ONLY CAME THAT ONE TIME.
WELL, I COULDN'T DO SOMETHING THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS.
NOTHING HERE HAS CHANGED.
NO REASON FOR IT TO CHANGE.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR DARKROOM?
SAME AS BEFORE.
IT'S STILL THERE?
Yeah
WANNA DEVELOP SOME PHOTOS?

GRiN
CAN WE?
Heh.
BUT LET'S NOT WORK THROUGH THE NIGHT.
Just one roll
Just one?
IT'S BAD FOR A GIRL'S SKIN IF SHE STAYS UP LATE.
THAT SHOULD BE MY LINE

WHEN DID YOU TAKE THESE PHOTOS?
OH
RECENTLY
I LIKE THESE BETTER THAN LANDSCAPES
SO LATELY ALL I'VE BEEN DOING IS PORTRAITS.

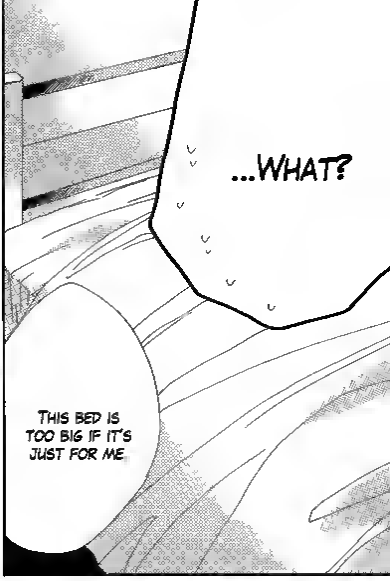
Wow! Cool!
Those children adored Shizuru.
Those children's portraits expressed their lively feelings.
In my opinion...
The Shizuru who snapped those photos...

...is truly marvelous.



LET'S DECIDE THE SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS.
YOU CAN USE THE BED.
I'LL SLEEP OVER THERE.
HOW ABOUT...
WE SLEEP TOGETHER.

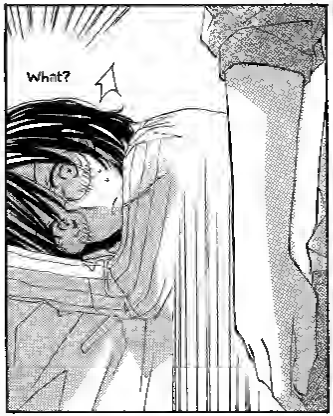
Come on!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT
FLOPP FLOPP
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY!


...WHAT?
THIS BED IS TOO BIG IF IT'S JUST FOR ME

YANK
YOU GO RIGHT HERE
OOF!

PLENTY OF IT!
ROLL ROLL
SEE! SEE!
LOOK AT ALL THE SPACE LEFT!
...
YOU

IT'S OKAY
WE CAN SLEEP TOGETHER.


What?

...
Sigh

I DIDN'T INVITE YOU HERE FOR THIS!

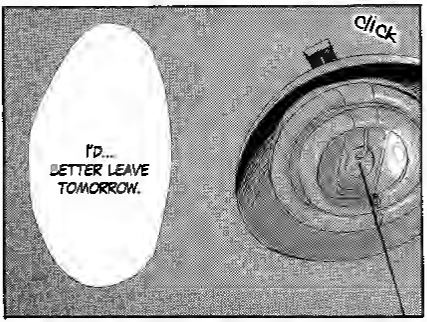
What?

NEVER MIND. GOOD NIGHT.
WHY...

Is it because I'm not fully developed?
Uh, um...
No...
Because my breasts aren't big?
No...
It's not that...
PLOFF

I WAS JOKING, OF COURSE!
SILLY GUY
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TOOK IT SERIOUSLY
SLEEP, SLEEP.
Okay.
..
YOU CAN SLEEP ON THE BED
I'M SLEEPING HERE.
NO ARGUMENTS!
I'M SLEEPING HERE.
HUH?
YOU'RE SLEEPING THERE?
PLOP

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU...
Sigh
THEN I'M TURNING OFF THE LIGHT.
IF YOU COME TO REGRET IT IN THE FUTURE, I WON'T CARE
I WILL MATURE...
YOU'LL REGRET THAT YOU ONCE LET SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN SLIP AWAY FROM YOU.


click
I'd... better leave tomorrow.

UGH
GOOD NIGHT.

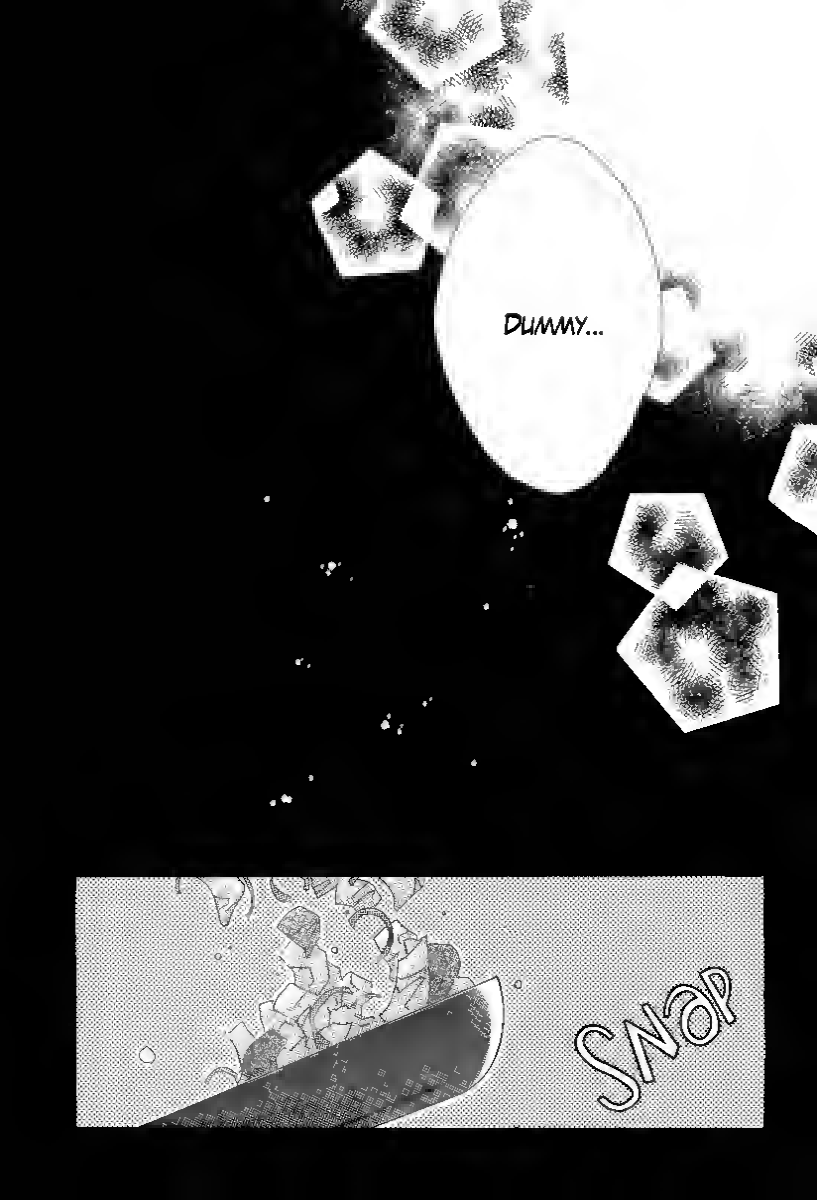
I'M NOT ANGRY.
PLOP
WHY?
ARE YOU ANGRY?

MIYUKI?
IT'S JUST THAT THIS IS DISRESPECTFUL TO MIYUKI

I DON'T GET IT?
Are you serious?
SHE DOES HAVE TO DO WITH IT! IF SHE FOUND OUT I'M STAYING OVER AT YOUR PLACE...
MMM
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY MENTION HER?
SHE DOESN'T...
Don't you know that?
I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.
Geez!
WHEN YOU BRING ANOTHER GIRL TO YOUR PLACE,
YOUR RELATIONSHIP IS DOOMED
I'LL FIND A WAY TO MAKE IT.
YOU'RE STILL SO CAREFREE
That sounds dangerous
...
NO
BUT EVEN SO..
DO YOU HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO?

ANYWAY...
DON'T BE IN SUCH A RUSH TO LEAVE.
I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
HEH
THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU CAN EVEN STAY HERE UNTIL YOU BECOME AN "ADULT."

GOT IT?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
What?
IDIOT! DUMMY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW NAIVE YOU ARE!
I WON'T HELP YOU WHEN YOU GET CHEATED BY SOMEBODY ELSE!
STUPID MAKOTO!
GOOD NIGHT.


DUMMY...
SNAP

SNAP
YEAH
I DO ALL THE COOKING AT HOME.
Oh...
SIZZLE...
SO YOU CAN COOK.
Well...
JUST ONE LITTLE BROTHER.
AND I TOOK CARE OF MY LITTLE BROTHER.
YOU HAVE SIBLINGS?
LAST WEEK...
BUT HE PASSED AWAY...
SIZZLE

HE WAS ALWAYS CONFINED TO BED BECAUSE OF HIS ILLNESS.
SO THE REASON YOU LEFT HOME...
SIZZLE
000
YEAH
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT DEPRESSED ME.
I HATED STAYING AT HOME,
SO I RAN AWAY AFTER I HAD A FIGHT WITH MY FATHER.
I didn't know.
YOUR BROTHER ...
HOW DID HE DIE?

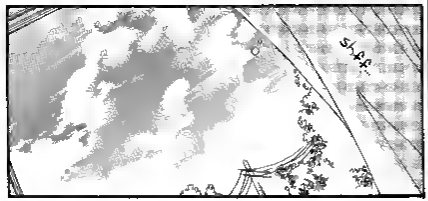
THAT ILLNESS... WAS ONE WHERE YOU DIE IF YOU FALL IN LOVE.
What kind of illness is that?
JUST KIDDING.
IT WAS A HEREDITARY DISEASE.
IS THAT SO...
MY MOM DIED OF THE SAME DISEASE.
WHAT?
THAT WAS WHEN I WAS STILL VERY YOUNG.

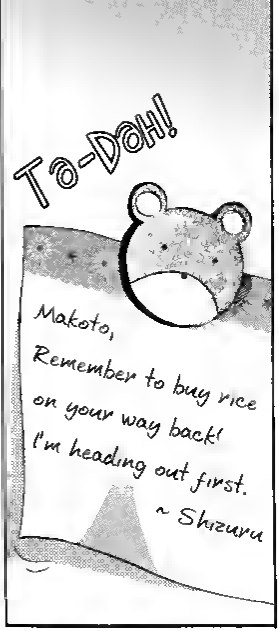
So you see, it's hereditary.
Only my dad and I survived.
Hi—
Get it? It's just the facts.
Hahah...
That's... probably it.
I obviously inherited my dad's genes.
That explains why I'm not womanly.
It's done. Let's eat.

Mm!
Delicious! ♡
Yum!
What's wrong?
Nothing...
It's really tasty.
So you do eat things other than those crackers.
Of course...
Because from today onwards, I need lots of nutrition so I can mature...

This subtle room-mate relationship with Shizuru lasted for about half a year.

yoink


sigh


Ta-Dah!
Makoto,
Remember to buy rice on your way back!
I'm heading out first.
~ Shizuru

SO HOT!
Then...

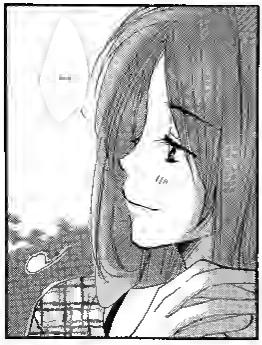
It was the summer of our fourth year.
YOU'RE READING THESE MAGAZINES AGAIN?
June Bride
HEY
SEGAWA.
MIYUKI, YOU REALLY NEVER TIRE OF IT

HARDLY ANYBODY SHOWED UP TO CLASS TODAY
THEY CAN'T HELP IT. THEY'RE ALL BUSY LOOKING FOR JOBS
I DON'T ACTUALLY MIND ABOUT PEOPLE NOT BEING AROUND, LESS CHANCE OF SOMEONE SMELLING MY OINTMENT...
That's good, at least
Phew
HOW ABOUT YOU, SEGAWA?
YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE FREE TIME. DID YOU ALREADY FIND A JOB?
WHAT?
snap
Uhm...
AH... NO, I HAVEN'T.
YOU FOUND ONE A LONG TIME AGO, RIGHT, MIYUKI?
WITH AN INVEST-MENT FIRM?
YES, BUT IT'S OVERSEAS. I'LL BE LONELY...
Aft...r graduation...
I FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY BECAUSE I GOT THIS JOB THROUGH PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

Miyuki would be going overseas.

SO, SEGAWA, DID YOU KNOW?
?
KNOW WHAT?

!
TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY.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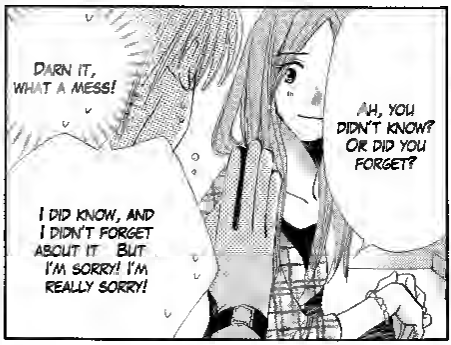

DARN IT, WHAT A MESS!
AH, YOU DIDN'T KNOW? OR DID YOU FORGET?
I DID KNOW, AND I DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT IT. BUT I'M SORRY! I'M REALLY SORRY!

Hmm
Shhhh...
Shhhh...
squeak
squeak
WELL, IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT UP TO ME...
COME WITH ME TO THIS PLACE!
Oh! Uh.
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TODAY?
Uh...?
What did you say?
IT MUST BE SOMETHING TO DO WITH MIYUKI
I don't mind
WELL... SHIZURU...

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON PHOTOGRAPHY?
MY THOUGHTS?
WOULD YOU EVER CONSIDER DOING IT YOUR WHOLE LIFE?
AS IN MAKING IT YOUR CAREER?
HUH?
I WANT TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER.

But if I start now, it'll still take many years.
But when I see the progress you've made with your photography, I don't consider that a waste of time
That's what I think.
So...
In order to challenge myself, I decided to join this competition.
Shizuru, why don't you enter too?
PHOTO
Contents
If you're joining, Makoto, then I will too
Hmm...
Then it's settled!
Let's discuss strategies for it later.

Maybe it would be good to go on a field trip.
We'll make better decisions after we look at some things.

Shizuru, you're better at portraits, so we can start there.
Makoto, why don't you try some portraits too?
Hmm... Well

What?
Your own personal model!
Look, isn't there one right in front of you?
Haha!

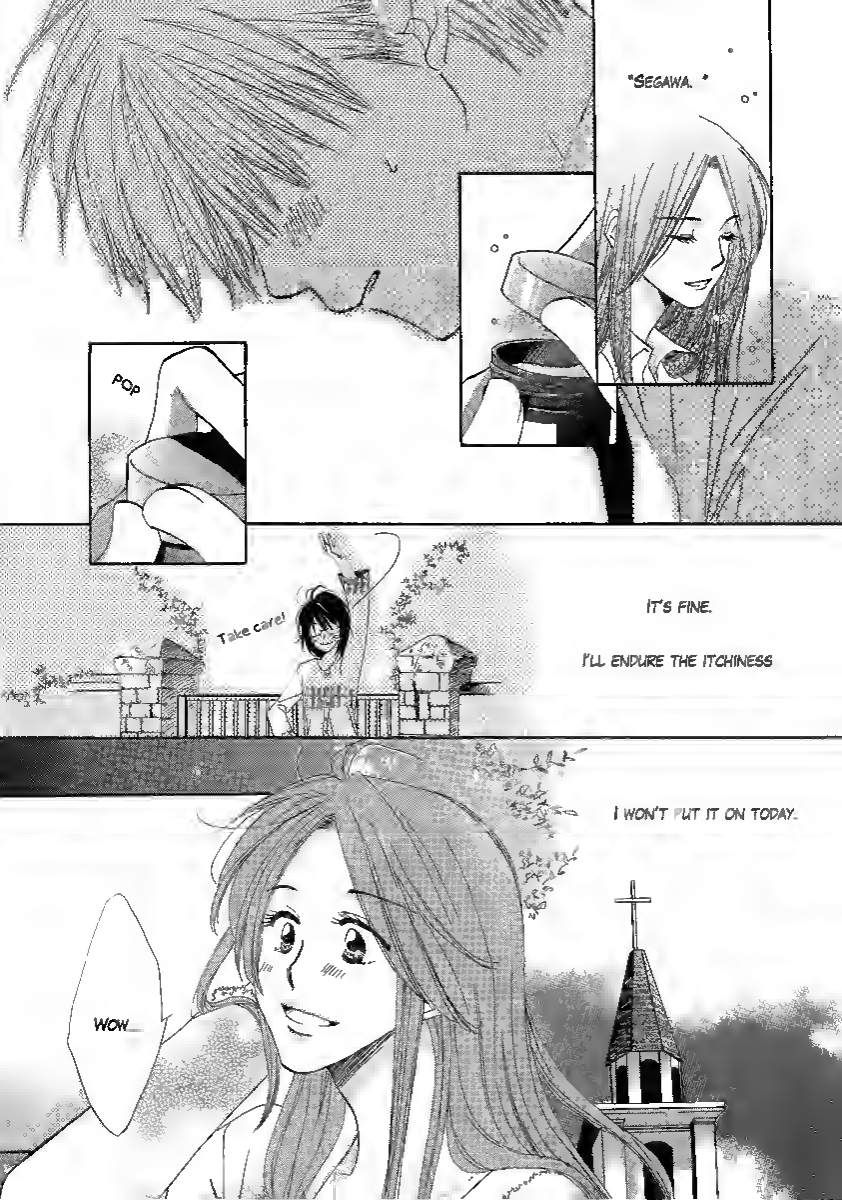
What subject matter would be best for a competition?
Anything you like. Anything is possible if you find a subject you like.
But there needs to be a theme.
Theme?
Whether it's scenery, people or anything, it's not good if there's no basic concept to it.

I DON'T MIND BEING YOUR MODEL, MAKOTO
HOHOHO
Why'd you have to bring that up again?
SHIZURU AS...
AHAHAHA!
WHAT KIND OF NAUGHTY THOUGHTS ARE YOU HAVING NOW?
I- I'M NOT!
SHIZURU!
PFF!
You're blushing!
JUST KIDDING.
Are you crying?
OKAY, LET'S GO ON A FIELD TRIP. HOW ABOUT THIS SUNDAY? YOU SHOULD BE FREE, RIGHT?
!
UM...
WELL?
SORRY.

I already have plans with Miyuki on Sunday.
On... a date?
No, I'm just going with her while she looks at wedding gowns.
And the event is only for couples
Oh! Miyuki has wanted to go to that for a long time!
But... I see...
Huh?
She asked you to go with her. That's expected
Anyway, you're not planning to dress the way you normally do, right?

NO HELPING IT..
I CAN'T LET YOU EMBARASS MIYUKI
MAKOTO, ARE YOU READY?
LET ME SEE
WELL?
AH, THE CLOTHES REALLY DO MAKE THE MAN.
I KNEW I PICKED GOOD CLOTHES FOR YOU!
NOW YOU JUST NEED SOME CONFIDENCE TO PULL IT OFF!
Did you bring a hankie? Or a napkin?
I brought one
DON'T NAG.

POP
HM?
I'M GOING TO THE RESTROOM.
FIDGET
HMM...
IT'S ITCHY...
MY OINTMENT...
THE SMELL...


"SEGAWA."
POP
Take care!
IT'S FINE.
I'LL ENDURE THE ITCHINESS
I WON'T PUT IT ON TODAY.
WOW...

It hasn't even begun and you're already so excited.
What an elegant church.
Haha...
Because I'm really looking forward to today
creak
whisper
Look, Segawa, it's begun already.

I'm glad...
HOW BEAUTIFUL.
I was able to go that day.
Hrch...

YOU MUST BE REALLY HAPPY NOW, MAKOTO
Hm
SNAP

THIS PICTURE...
IS WORTH REMEMBERING
HERE COMES THE BRIDE!
Gasp!
!
&a-thump
&a-thump
&a-thump
Wedding Gowns
Demonstration
Memorial
Photograph

I TOLD YOU YOU'D BE A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE

I WAS RIGHT
I once wanted to marry Miyuki.
And I wanted to share my happiness with Miyuki.
THANK YOU.
I wanted to give Miyuki everything.

SNAP
MAKOTO'S
SMELL...
SNAP
AH...
DARN IT!
I'M SO ITCHY!

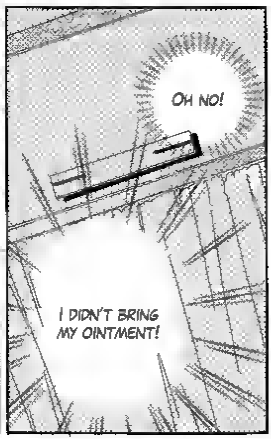
DASH

WHAT?
SEGAWA?

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN STAND IT!
OKAY!
YOU CAN MOVE AGAIN!
We're done!

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
CLACK
I could scratch until it bleeds...

RIP
UGH...


OH NO!
I DIDN'T BRING MY OINTMENT!

MY OINTMENT
HOW ?
..

Segawa?
Are you okay?
Phew...
It must be Shizuru...
Phew
Yes...
It must have been Shizuru who slipped it into my pocket.

GOODBYE, THEN.
THANK YOU FOR COMING WITH ME TODAY.
"TAKE CARE!"
Did Shizuru know...?
WAIT A MINUTE, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
AH!
I'M SORRY THAT'S ALL I CAN GIVE YOU..
NOT AT ALL!
A METEOR SHOWER?
THE LEONIDS.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
So-thump
THANK YOU
I LOVE IT.
WHAT...?
Didn't I want to make Miyuki smile?
WHY ?

I felt...
puzzled.
...
SHIZURU
There's blood
Uh-oh!
HM?
ERM...
Mm.
WELL...
DID YOU PUT THAT CONTAINER OF OINTMENT IN MY POCKET?

SHIZURU...
YOU KNEW ABOUT MY SKIN CONDITION...
DID YOU PUT IT ON?
Hm?
WHAT IF I DID?
GOOD.
Hmph
WHAT?
DID YOU WEAR THAT STINKY OINTMENT AROUND MIYUKI?
NO, I DIDN'T...
Owww...

...
That was the first.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE.
I'M STILL MATURING.
YOU STILL HAVE BABY TEETH?

SHIZURU?
ARE YOU ASLEEP?
WILL SHE REALLY KEEP MATURING?

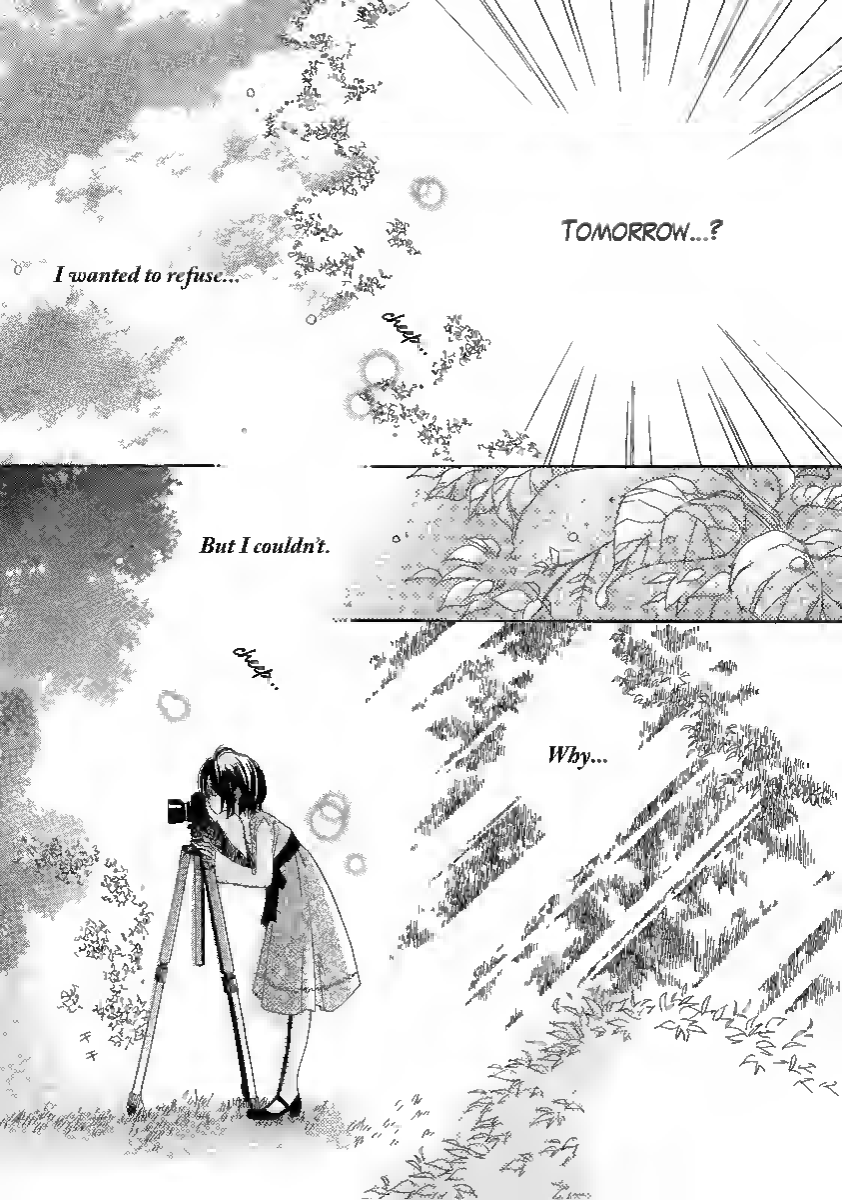
Let's celebrate your birthday next time
When is your birthday?
Mm. Nearly there
Don't ask why.
Why?
No, that's okay.
Just focus on having a successful relationship with Miyuki.
Makoto, you should only focus on Miyuki.
You don't need to mind me.

JUST BECAUSE WE WENT ON A DATE DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE IN LOVE.
EVEN THOUGH I LOVE HER,
THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT A FULL-FLEDGED LOVE.
BESIDES, MIYUKI WILL BE GOING OVERSEAS AFTER SHE GRADUATES.
AND I DON'T WANT TO CHANGE THE FRIENDSHIP WE ALREADY HAVE.

THOSE ARE A COWARD'S WORDS
BA-THUMP
HMPH.
FLIP
I'M GOING TO SLEEP
THEN... GIVE ME A PRESENT TOO

WHAT?
A KISS.
WHAT?
A BIRTHDAY PRESENT.
OKAY. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
KISS ME.

WH-
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THIS IS ALL TOO SUDDEN!
I WANT MY PHOTOS' THEME TO BE "LOVERS."
MY FIRST KISS, AND MAKOTO WILL GIVE IT TO ME.
Hee!
"LOVERS KISS."
THAT'S MY THEME. OF COURSE, I'LL BE IN THE PHOTO.
Come on!
Is that an excuse?
IT WILL BE IN THE HEAVENLY FOREST.
Well
Really now!
THEN WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?
LET'S JUST SAY IT'S TOMORROW ♡


TOMORROW...?
I wanted to refuse...
But I couldn't.
Why...

WOW, MAKOTO, YOU'RE REALLY NERVOUS!
Haha...
WAIT...
IS IT OKAY IF I STAND HERE?
MOVE FORWARD A BIT.
LIKE THIS?
AH, THAT'S TOO MUCH.
THERE.
OKAY!
HUH?
Let me make sure the remote is working
LET'S DO THIS.

SHE REALLY DID...
AH... MY GLASSES...
YOU JUST REALIZED?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WOULD CONTINUE TO MATURE?
SHIZURU, HAVE YOU GROWN TALLER SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE MET?
YOU'RE TAKING THEM OFF?
YEAH, I CAN STILL SEE SOME WITHOUT THEM.
EH--?!

Entrancing gaze...
One must feel something like this...
A deeply...
SHIZURU...

After one touch...
I couldn't stop myself.

Ahh
smooch
We had our first kiss over and over again.

FLAP

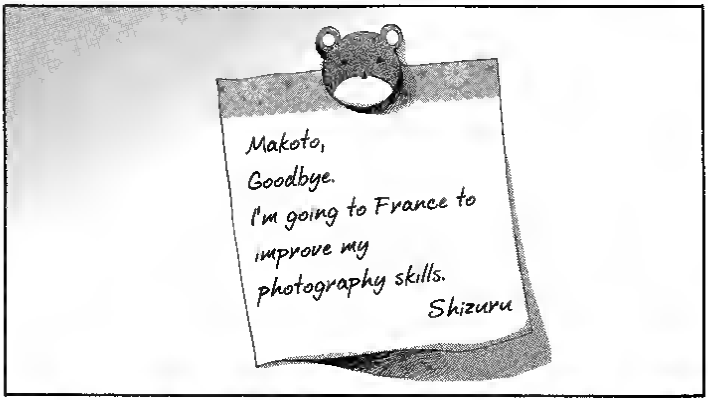
Over and over again...
SNAP
My heart called out to Shizuru...
IT'S TIME TO GO, RIGHT?
I WANT TO STAY A LITTLE LONGER.
YOU DO?
MAKOTO, YOU CAN LEAVE FIRST. YOU HAVE CLASS, RIGHT?

Haha
Then I'll see you tonight.
To celebrate your taking your contest entry photo.
I'll cook tonight. But I can only cook three dishes.
Huh?
What?
We'll have a proper celebration tonight.
Makoto
Yeah?
That kiss just now...
Was there... maybe just a little love in it?

WHAT?
I'M GOING THEN.
MM... NEVER MIND

CREAK
SHIZURU?

THIS NEEDS TO BE REFRIG-ERATED.
SHE HASN'T COME HOME YET?

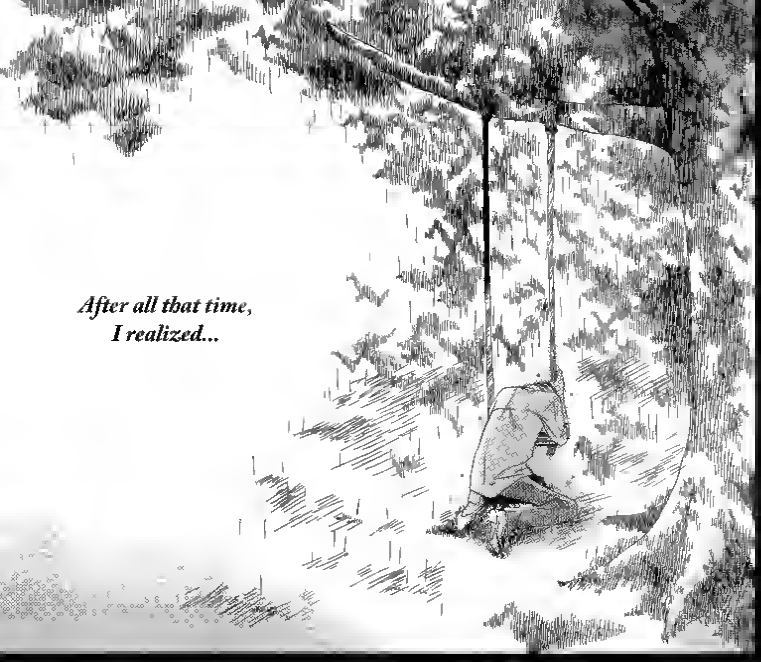

Makoto,
Goodbye.
I'm going to France to improve my photography skills.
Shizuru

Goodbye.

SHIZURU...
WHERE DID YOU GO?
Student Af
WITHDRAWAL?
HOW CAN THIS BE...
YES, THIS AFTERNOON SHE SUBMITTED A WITHDRAWAL NOTICE.

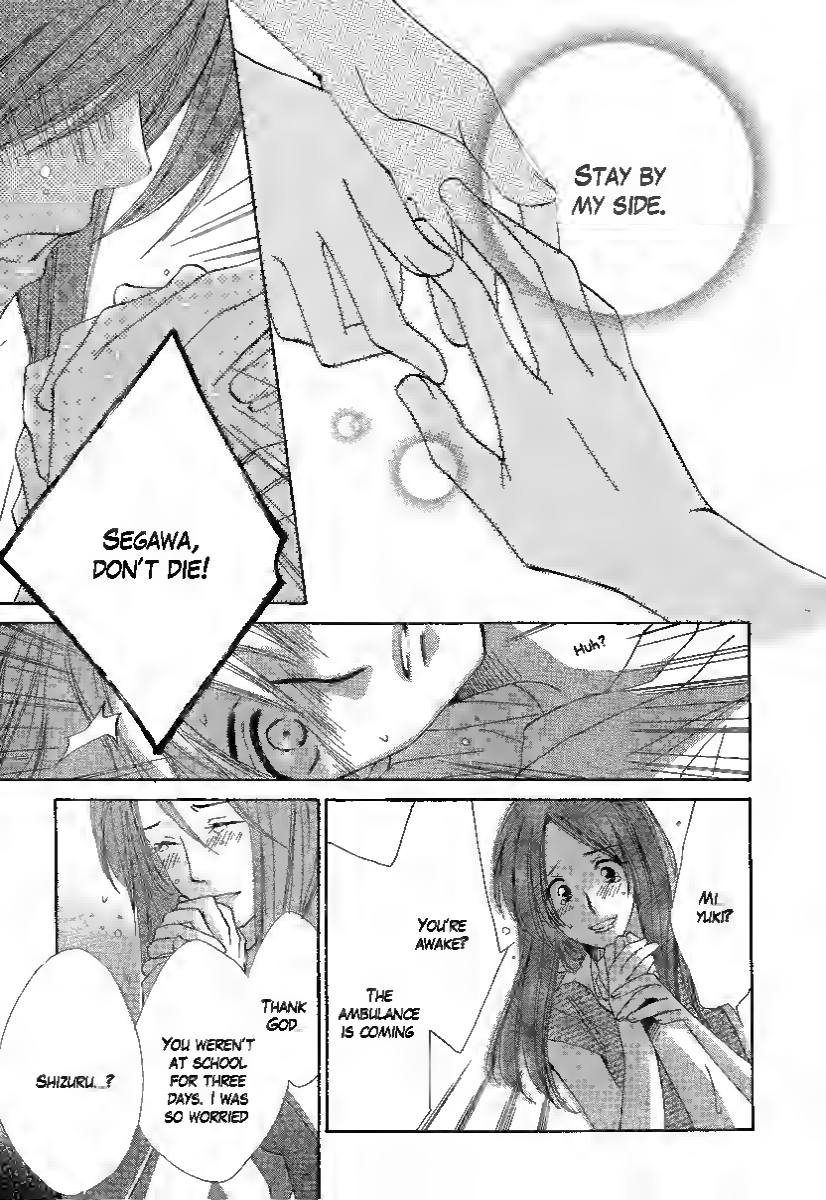
She just suddenly disappeared.
Why...?
Shizuru ...!!
Shizuru...
...

Just when I had finally...
plip
plop
CRACKER CRUMBS...
WHY



After that, I was bedridden with a high fever.

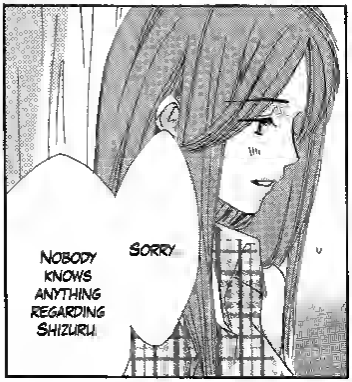
"DO YOU HAVE THE FLU?"
"WHAT'S WRONG?"
SHIZURU?
WAIT!
"GIVE ME A MOMENT."
"I'LL COOK SOME PORRIDGE FOR YOU!"
DON'T BOTHER!
STAY HERE.
DON'T LEAVE.


STAY BY MY SIDE.
SEGAWA, DON'T DIE!
Huh?
MI YUKI?
YOU'RE AWAKE?
THE AMBULANCE IS COMING
THANK GOD
YOU WEREN'T AT SCHOOL FOR THREE DAYS. I WAS SO WORRIED
SHIZURU...?

WHERE IS SHE?
SHIZUKU...
WHAT?
rustle
SEGAWA...
DON'T COME
TOO NEAR ME..
Don't
I'm going
MIYUKI...

THE SMELL...
BECAUSE MY OINTMENT STINKS
WHAT?
...?
SEGAWA, I DON'T SMELL ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT YOU!
WHAT...
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO CLEAN AND TIDY

I had been such a fool.
Worrying over nothing,
and keeping my distance from others.
Hospital
SEGAWA ...
I was also deceiving myself.
MIYUKI...
This is from everyone.
YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER. THAT'S GREAT.


Sorry
Nobody knows anything regarding Shizuru.

Yeah
Thanks for your help.
You're welcome.

No...
I will wait for her at my place
Though I don't know how long I'll be waiting.

Haha...
NO...
SHE WAS LIVING WITH YOU?
Oh...
NOW I KNOW HOW IT IS.
SEGAWA.
SHIZURU WILL COME BACK, RIGHT?

IF SHE DOESN'T...

"WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?"
WHEN WE FIRST MET...
YES
CAN I... ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING...?
I BELIEVE SHE WILL COME BACK.
BACK THEN, YOU LIKED ME, RIGHT?
YES.
Heh.

THANK YOU. YOU MUST TREASURE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS, OKAY?
For the time being...
I treated it as an intermission.
SNAP
I graduated not long after.
And though it was tough, I became a photographer.
And then, on a certain day, two years later...

From Shizuru Satonaka
I recieved...
A letter from New York.
Soon...
IT'S LATE
And now here I am, in New York.
Meet here at 4:00
It stated that Shizuru would be having a personal exhibition soon.

I'll be able to see you soon.
There's something I have to tell you, no matter what.
step
step
step
step
step
FINALLY...
SORRY I'M LATE.
I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE...

...
MIYUKI ?

Okay.
Make yourself at home.
I've been busy preparing for Shizuru's personal exhibition I lost track of time.
Sorry I was late to pick you up.
Miyuki, why are you...
It was about half a year ago.
I ran into Shizuru in Chinatown.
What?
She said she was sleeping in her office at night,
Half a year ago?
So I invited her to be my roommate.
Why didn't you contact me then?
I only received her letter a month ago.
Well, there were some things...
I was really busy.

I'M SORRY!
SHIZURU IS CURRENTLY DOING A JOB IN LOS ANGELES
WHAT THINGS?
AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
WHAT?
WHAT?
SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE SHIZURU THIS TIME
I'm really really sorry!
WHAT?
UGH!
BUT I'LL TAKE YOU TO SEE HER EXHIBITION.
A JOB... IS THAT SO...
THEN IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
AH...
THEN WHY DID I COME?

Shizuru really wanted to see you, too.
I'm sure she'll call.
There's so much I have to tell you...
I can't tell you how sad that makes me
Were you really anxious?
Sigh
Of course.
Is Shizuru doing well?
It's a pity, though.
She's fine. I think you'll be surprised
Anyone who meets her now wouldn't hesitate to call her a gorgeous lady.

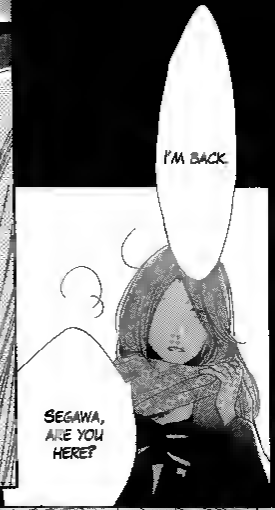
WHAT REALLY SURPRISES ME...
IS HOW WELL SHE'S LEARNED TO LIE
OKAY
THE ADULT SHIZURU... I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE HER.
It's past noon
I OVER-SLEPT...
RRR
Yagawa, Did you sleep well? Use this key. The exhibition starts. Please rest well.

RRR
"I'M SURE..."
RRR
RRR
"SHE'LL CALL."
SHIZURU?
RRR
Please leave your name and message I get back to you as soon as possible
beep
HER VOICE MAIL?
click
RR
Hello. Thank you for calling.

Shizuru's ashes are in the family crypt.
This is Satonaka.
WHAT?
Thank you for your letter.
IT'S NOT SHIZURU
THAT'S A MAN'S VOICE.
The funeral went smoothly.

WHAT DID HE JUST SAY...?
I'm really grateful for your help, Miyuki.
When you come back to Japan...
WHAT...

SEGAWA?


I'M BACK.
SEGAWA, ARE YOU HERE?

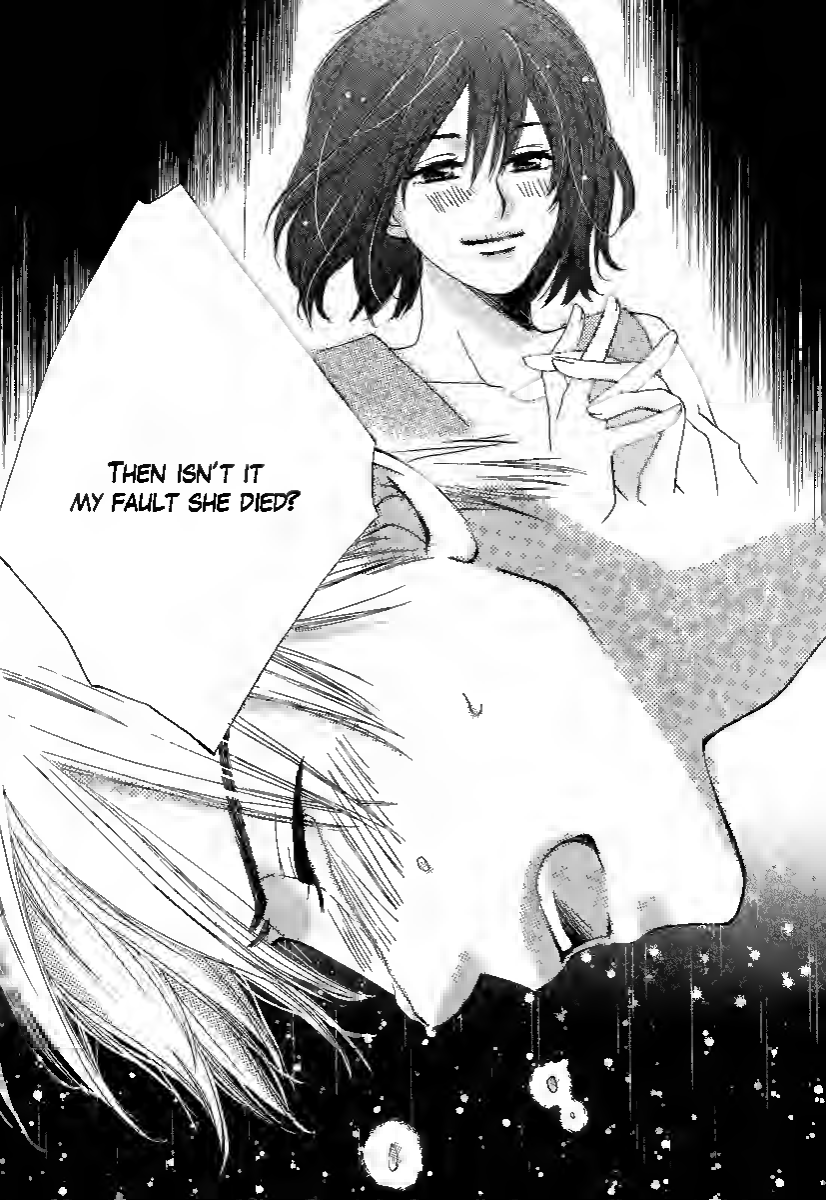
WHERE IS SHIZURU, REALLY?

..!
There was a call...
It was Shizuru's father.
Mizuki...?
Last month...
It's not true, right?
This is all a lie.

A LIE!
WHY DID SHIZURU DIE?
SHE TOLD ME SHE INHERITED IT FROM HER MOTHER,
AND THAT SHE'D HAD IT HER WHOLE LIFE.
AS SHE GREW, SO WOULD THE DISEASE.
SHE WAS ILL ALL ALONG.
WHEN I MET HER AGAIN, IT WAS ALREADY VERY SERIOUS.
SHE...

"It's pretty much all I eat."
wheat crackers
That's why Shizuru was always careful about her diet, so she wouldn't grow so much
But... Segawa...
Then Shizuru met you
"I need lots of nutrition so I can mature."

"That illness... You die if you fall in love."
No... How could this be...?
And she loved you.
Ah...


THEN ISN'T IT
MY FAULT SHE DIED?

No...
It was Shizuru's choice.
Even if it allowed the disease to grow,
she wanted to fall in love... to grow up... to live a fulfilling life.
Segawa... For her sake... Go look.
See the happy years of her life
This was Shizuru's last wish.

PHOTO BY
SHIZURU
SATONAKA
ART
GALERIE
WOW...

BEAUTIFUL..
Dear Makoto..
In the past, I used to speak without thinking, totally not grown-up at all.
Thank you for taking care of me all this time. I'm sorry to leave without even thanking you.
So I decided to do something daring.
I'd rely totally on the camera skills Makoto taught me.
My theme? A journey of independence.

I came here alone, but I had no idea where I was going to go.
After much effort, I managed to find a job
I tried coming to New York alone.
ATONAKA
MG STUDI
It's a famous company that provides studios for photographers.
Makoto... Do you still remember?

The day we first met...

IF YOU HAD LOOKED LIKE YOU LOOK NOW,
I'D HAVE BEEN TOO SHY TO EVEN APPROACH YOU.
Makoto, you would surely regret...
Regret that you rejected me back then.
LOV
KISS

At that crosswalk, I fell in love with Makoto.
It was a fated love.

Look...
Look at this astonishing change in me.
Though I would really love for Makoto to touch me...

The coward in me would probably still run away.
EVERY-ONE KEEPS STARING AT ME.
What?
Oh!
Huh?
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ME?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
What?
?

PHOTOMODE

If it were possible...
I'd wish to live with you once again.

It was the only kiss, the only love I have ever known...

We should have had a future...
When you saw me through your camera's lens, didn't you realize...
EVEN IF IT IS GOD, I WILL FIGHT HIM FOR THIS...
THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN..

Please.
Ah...
Turn back time...
Please let her have realized that I...
Allow me to express these feelings that I have...
To her...

In that forest,
we were happy.
It was the only kiss,
the only love
I have ever known...
That must have been...
A heaven for just
the two of us.

Makoto...
There are a lot
THEY'RE MORE PHOTOS OF YOU
THEY WEREN'T ALL IN THE EXHIBIT.
Shizuru...
HERE... TAKE THEM.

That kiss...
There was some love in it, right?

Of course.
At that time, you
were my world!